

# WASHINGTON STATE

## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS OFFICER

### MONTHLY REPORT

#### July 2013

CATEGORY	July 2013	July 2012	YTD 13	YTD 12
DOE INCIDENTS	0	2	3	4
FIRE	62	54	192	172
HAZMAT	185	229	1419	1571
OTHER	113	83	642	498
911 OUTAGES	6	3	17	18
SAR	105	107	438	440
TERRORIST	0	0	1	0
WEATHER INCIDENTS	7	10	32	37
CGS INCIDENTS	0	0	0	0
TSUNAMI DEBRIS	0	4	11	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>2755</b>	<b>2753</b>
ESAR (NOT INCL IN TOTAL)	(10)	(5)	(45)	(31)
ADD'L WEATHER ALERTS (NOT INCL IN TOTAL)	24	75	140	456

\*Note: Prior to January 1, 2013, only initiating weather events were counted in the statistics. As the weather severity changed and storm systems crossed the state, new or updated weather related alerts were issued, but the numbers of additional alerts issued were only "rolled into" the one initiating event. Beginning January 1, 2013, all subsequent alerts that are considered to be part of the initiating weather event are recorded as Additional Weather Alerts.

#### LEGEND

DOE	Department of Energy, Hanford Site
SAR	Search and Rescue Missions
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials Incidents
WEATHER	Weather Incidents (throughout state, i.e., Flood, High Winds, and Snow)
CGS	Columbia Generating Station
FIRE	Forest Fire Incidents
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, i.e., Tsunami, Earthquake, Critical Incident Stress Debriefings, Bomb Threat, etc...
911	911 Service Outages
ESAR	Evidence Search Mission (not included in total numbers)

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**SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

- On July 1, King County commenced a search for two missing hikers in the Mason Lake Trailhead area. Searchers from Kittitas, Kitsap, and Skagit Counties assisted in the search. Additional air support was provided by Snohomish County. The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) provided cell phone triangulation assistance which helped with the search. The hikers were located safely on July 2.
- On July 1, The National Weather Service issued a Fire Weather Watch for Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Kittitas, Klickitat, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties in effect from 1200 hours on July 3 through 2200 hours on July 4. The Fire Weather Watch was upgraded to a Red Flag Warning on July 2 and Asotin, Chelan, Douglas, Garfield, and Grant counties were added. The Red Flag Warning expired on July 4.
- On July 5, Snohomish County requested 10 to 15 snow qualified volunteers to rescue 3 mountain climbers (one with injuries) on Mount Pilchuck. A total of 11 volunteers responded. All of the climbers were rescued and the mission was closed at noon on July 6.
- On July 7, Chelan County conducted a rescue of an injured male hiker on the south summit of Mount Goode. Helicopter support was provided by Snohomish County. The injured hiker was flown to a local hospital.
- On July 7, Mason County opened a search for four lost hikers near Mt Ellinor. Resources from Olympic Mountain Rescue were coordinated to assist with the search. The hikers were located late on July 7 in good condition.
- On July 9, The Alert and Warning Center participated in the CGS quarterly exercise drill.
- On July 9, the National Weather Service Spokane issued a Fire Weather Watch for Adams, Douglas, Grant, Chelan, Kittitas, Lincoln, Yakima, Spokane and Whitman Counties. The Watch was in effect from the evening of July 10 through the evening of July 11 for wind and low relative humidity. This was upgraded to a Red Flag Warning on July 10 for the same effective period. On July 10 the Red Flag Warning was extended into Asotin, Garfield, Columbia, Walla Walla, Franklin, Benton, Okanogan, Douglas, and Klickitat Counties. The warnings were

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allowed to expire on July 11 because the criteria for a Red Flag warning was no longer being met.

- On July 12, the National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning for the Kittitas Valley area. The warning was cancelled later that afternoon.
- On July 14, the National Weather Service began issuing a series of Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings covering most of central and eastern Washington. On July 17, the National Weather Service issued Severe Thunderstorm Warnings for portions of Lincoln, Ferry, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Grant & Douglas Counties. A Flash Flood Warning was issued for Ferry County. Several small lightning-caused fires started and there were some intense localized rain cells, but there were no major damages as a result of this system.
- On July 14, Cowlitz County requested a helicopter with hoist to rescue a 30 year old man from a trail near Snow Lake. King County was called, but their helicopter was unavailable. Snohomish County was called, but their helicopter was also unable to fly the mission due to the distance. Cowlitz County turned the mission over to Skamania County, who in turn, requested Cowlitz County SAR assets (the Volcano Mountain Rescue from Clark County) and re-submitted the request for a helicopter. The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) was contacted and would not fly the mission due to the patient being combative. A total of 19 firefighters from various departments in Clark and Cowlitz County deployed for the search. The man was located by ground searchers July 15 in good condition.
- On July 15, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office requested a helicopter with hoist to assist in the rescue of an injured 30-year old female near Devil's Dome just east of Ross Lake. A Whidbey Island Naval Air Station helicopter was coordinated through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) and used in the successful extraction of the subject.
- On July 18, King County conducted a rescue mission for an injured hiker on Snoqualmie pass with a broken leg. Assistance for helicopter support was coordinated through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC). The injured hiker was transported to Harborview Medical Center.
- On July 20-21, the National Weather Service issued Red Flag Warnings for Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Walla Walla and Yakima Counties. The

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warnings were allowed to expire on July 22 because the criteria for a Red Flag warning was no longer being met

- On July 22, Thurston County opened a search for a 78 year-old female Alzheimer's patient that walked away from a convalescent center. German shepherd search dogs from Pierce County responded to assist. Thurston County closed the SAR early the next morning because the woman had left the area on her own before and probably had done so again.
- On July 24, at 0404 hours Skamania County dispatch requested assistance in the search for an individual who had an activated spot beacon on the Pacific Crest Trail. Clark and Cowlitz County were contacted. The subject was located and the mission was closed at 1530 hours.
- On July 24, the National Weather Service issued a Fire Weather Watch for Yakima and Kittitas valleys. At 2000 hours the Fire Weather Watch was upgraded to a Red Flag Warning, and was allowed to expire on the evening of July 27.
- On July 25, the National Weather Service issued Red Flag Warnings for the following counties: Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Franklin and Columbia. The warnings expired on the evening of July 27.
- On July 26, Fire Resource Mobilization was approved for the Mile Marker 28 Fire affecting Klickitat County. The State EOC was activated to Phase II at 1915 hours. Demobilization for this wild fire occurred at midnight on July 30<sup>th</sup>. On July 31, Jeff King from Klickitat County Sheriff's Office reported that Search and Rescue staff coordinated delivery of 902 evacuation notices during this fire, including 255 Level III (immediate evacuation), 476 Level II (ready to depart), and 171 Level I (remain alert) notices. He closed SAR use of the mission number at 1200 hours on July 31.
- On July 27, Fire Resource Mobilization was approved for the Colockum Tarps Fire affecting Chelan County. The State EOC was already activated at Phase II for the Mile Marker 28 Fire. A Fire Management Assistance Declaration was submitted by the State of Washington on July 29 and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. At the time of the request, the fire was threatening 270 homes near the towns of Malaga and Kittitas. State fire resources were mobilized through the end of the month.

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- On July 28, Jefferson County conducted a rescue mission for an injured hiker on the Brother's Mountain. Additional resources were provided by the Olympic Mountain Rescue Unit. The climber was air lifted out by a Whidbey Naval Air Station helicopter and flown to the hospital to be treated for broken ankles and wrist. The mission was closed on July 29.
- On July 29, Chelan County initiated a rescue for a 20 year-old male climber who fell at the 7,500 foot level on Mount Stewart sustaining multiple "life threatening" injuries (two broken arms, two broken legs and multiple internal injuries). A helicopter with hoist was coordinated from Snohomish County and extracted the climber off the mountain to safety.
- On July 30, the National Weather Service issued a Fire Weather Watch for the foothills and west slopes of the southern Cascades. This was upgraded and expanded to Red Flag Warnings effective from 2400 hours July 30 through 2300 August 1, for Asotin, Benton, Clark, Columbia, Cowlitz, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Skamania, Walla Walla and Yakima Counties. A Fire Weather Watch was also issued for July 31 evening through August 1 evening for Yakima, Kittitas, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Adams, Lincoln, Spokane and Whitman Counties. The watch was cancelled for Spokane and Whitman Counties only on July 31.
- On July 31, the National Weather Service upgraded the Fire Weather Watch to a Red Flag Warning for the west slopes of the northern and central Cascades. The Warning was in effect through the end of the month.
- On July 31, the National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning for abundant lightning and wind from 1700 to 2000 hours on August 1 for Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan and Yakima counties.

For the month of July 2013 the SEOO's:

- Issued 174 warnings to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies.
- Issued 25 warnings to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies.
- Conducted 1796 notifications to state agency liaisons for imminent or occurring emergencies.
- Coordinated 41 resources for search, rescue, recovery and response operations.

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- Participated in 6 exercises of which 3 were vessel spill drills.
- Conducted 2014 National Warning System Tests (NAWAS).
- Conducted 348 Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET) radio tests. The CEMNET connects all counties and many cities via Zetron Radio Console.
- Conducted 10 dedicated line tests with the Department of Energy, Hanford Site (DOE).
- Conducted 20 dedicated line tests with the Columbia Generating Station (CGS).
- Conducted 6 Emergency Alert System (EAS) tests. The EAS broadcasts emergency information to the public via television and radio mediums.
- Conducted 32 All Hazards Alert Broadcast System (AHAB) Daily Function tests. Tests functional capability of all coastal and Puget Sound AHAB siren systems.
- Conducted 29 Olympic Peninsula Public Safety Alliance Network (OPSCAN) tests. OPSCAN connects public safety organizations throughout the Olympic Peninsula.
- Conducted 17 State Agency Emergency Network (STAEN) tests. The STAEN connects state agencies via an 800 MHz radio system.
- Conducted 3 King County 800 MHz Radio System tests. The 800 Hz radio system connects the Alert and Warning Center with King County key emergency management and response organizations.